

How Reps Ignored State Party Lines

By KATHY MORAN

Bennett (D-Redford Township).

An analysis of the vote cast by Observerland's eight state representatives on six of the major bills showed that, for the most part, the voting patterns of the local legislators were predictable. The area has at least two "liberal" leaders in Reps. Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia) and Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park).

More conservative voting patterns were evidenced in Reps. Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights), James Tierney (D-Garden City), and Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) and John

The change becomes effective on Jan. 1.

This bill saw Stempien, Forbes, Denebaugh and Brown defeat Young, while Young, Tierney and Baker were opposed.

The major bone of contention for conservatives in the bill was lowering the legal drinking age with opponents arguing 18-year-olds couldn't handle the responsibility and an increase of traffic accidents due to drunk driving would result.

Bennett pulled a reversal on this bill when he voted to keep a higher limit on the drinking age. This amendment failed, and Bennett then voted with liberals for the entire age of majority package, including the lower drinking age.

THE BILL that hit the taxpayers hardest was the 1.3 per cent increase in the state income tax effective in August. After a compromise on the actual amount of the increase, both houses approved the tax which is now at the 3.9 per cent level.

Again Stempien and Forbes voted with the liberal backers of the increased tax. Brown also voted for it as did Tierney.

Though many conservatives did not back the increase, Tierney is from an area which rarely opposes school tax boosts.

Voting against the tax hike were Young, Baker, and Bennett.

Splits Cross Party Lines

An analysis of voting patterns on six major bills indicated that the voting trends were:

"LIBERALS": Reps. Forbes (D-Oak Park) on all six votes, Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia) on all six votes.

"CONSERVATIVES": Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights), four of six votes, James Tierney (D-Garden City) on five of six votes, Raymond Baker (R-Farmington) on five of six votes, John Bennett (R-Birmingham) on four of six votes, and John Bennett on 3½ of five votes.

"SWING": Rep. Thomas Brown (D-Westland) three liberal and three conservative votes.

ANOTHER TAX bill considered by the Legislature was one to impose a five per cent tax on hotel and motel bills in Wayne County. Passed by both the House and Senate, the bill is now awaiting Gov. Milliken's approval. The estimated \$2.5 million gained by the tax will be used in financing the Detroit stadium.

Assuming that the "liberals" would support the bill Stempien and Forbes by their affirmative votes again fit a predictable pattern. Both Bennett and Baker broke the patterns by voting with the

liberals for the bill, as did Denebaugh.

Following the "conservative" vote against the bill were Young, Tierney and Brown.

LEGISLATORS considered several gambling bills this session, and one passed by the House would legalize off-track betting. It is now awaiting Senate action.

This time Young and Brown voted with Stempien and Forbes for passage. Tierney, Baker and Bennett voted against it.

The wiretap bill passed most recently by the House is

evidence of a split between the more liberal legislators and those who are more conservative.

Expanding the liberals to oppose the bill, which it was argued would infringe on an individual's civil rights, Stempien and Forbes again fit the liberal tag by their opposition votes.

Conservatives argued for the bill, which won passage after a second vote. They argued that law enforcement officials are hindered without it in investigating major crimes.

Upon approval of circuit court judges, a 20-day warrant could be issued for wiretaps to county prosecutors under the House version.

Tierney was one of the main sponsors of the bill and was supported in the drive for passage by Denebaugh, Young, Brown, and Baker. Bennett did not vote.

ANOTHER BILL that generally split forces in the House was the final passage of the \$519.9 million welfare bill.

The compromise bill drew support from Stempien and Forbes as well as Young and Bennett. Voting against it were Tierney, Brown, Baker and Denebaugh.

Still facing action by the House when it reconvenes on Jan. 12 is action on the abortion reform bill passed by the Senate. One attempt to begin discussion on the bill in

the House died for lack of a second.

Milliken's transportation package is bottled up in the House currently. The 13-member Black Caucus of the House is holding back its votes because of the mass transit program provided for in the bill.

A portion of the two cent per gallon gas increase would be used for mass transit, but black legislators are opposing the planned route on Woodward.

Generally, it is expected that the liberals will go for passage of the package and abortion law reform, but it remains to be seen how Observerland state representatives will vote on the issues.



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No Vote Pattern Seen With 4 Area Senators

By KATHY MORAN

While Observerland's state representatives followed some general voting patterns during the recently-completed session, the area's four senators defied any such categorizing.

Issues such as abortion law reform and the increased income tax split the legislators for various and unpredictable reasons.

Though the Senate had its share of party line votes, the local legislators don't fall into a liberal-conservative classification.

ABORTION reform drew negative votes from Sens. David Plawecki (D-Dearborn Heights) and William Faust (D-Westland), but for entirely opposite reasons.

Sens. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) and Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) voted for the reform. The bill is awaiting House action.

Plawecki, whose 12th district includes Redford Township, has a large Catholic and anti-abortion constituency, but Faust voted against the bill because it wasn't liberal enough to suit him.

The bill which passed in March has a 90-day residency requirement as well as a provision requiring the father's permission if he is available.

IN KEEPING with the sentiment expressed by his constituency, Plawecki also opposed the no-fault divorce bill, which his three local colleagues supported. This bill cleared the House and was signed into law.

The 1.3 per cent income tax increase which was effective

in August drew opposition from both Plawecki and Pursell. Faust and Cooper voted for the bill.

Pursell, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has kept an eye on state financing and also voted against the revenue sharing bill that cleared the Legislature. After the revenue-sharing vote, Pursell said he opposed it because it just gives money to select cities. Also, he said it was not cleared through the appropriations committee and thus was not put into perspective in terms of the entire state budget.

The revenue sharing bill also was opposed by Plawecki. It drew support from Faust and Cooper, both of whom said it was long overdue.

WHEN THE SENATE voted to approve the federal constitutional amendment giving 18 to 21-year-olds the right to vote in all elections, Faust was the only opposition vote from the area.

He said his vote was based on the fact that the Michigan voters had turned down the issue in two previous elections. Faust was a supporter of the lower voting age.

Most recently, the legislators split on both the welfare appropriations bill and the hotel-motel bill tax.

Faust voted against the \$519.1 million welfare bill for the fiscal year which began last July 1.

Together with Cooper, Faust also opposed the five per cent tax on the hotel and motel bills in Wayne County. Plawecki and Pursell voted for the bill, which is part of the financing plan for the Detroit stadium.

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